

VZCZCXYZ0000  
RR RUEHWEB

DE RUEHUL #0963/01 1680655  
ZNR UUUUU ZZH  
R 170655Z JUN 09  
FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL  
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC 4729  
INFO RHMFISS/COMUSFK SEOUL KOR  
RUACAAA/COMUSKOREA INTEL SEOUL KOR  
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC  
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHINGTON DC//OSD/ISA/EAP//  
RUCNDT/USMISSION USUN NEW YORK 1121

UNCLAS SEOUL 000963

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: N/A  
TAGS: [EWWT](#) [MARR](#) [PHSA](#) [PHUM](#) [PREL](#) [KS](#)  
SUBJECT: SEOUL HIGH-LEVEL MEETING ON PIRACY OFF THE COAST  
OF SOMALIA

¶1. Summary: On June 9-10, the ROKG hosted the Seoul High Level Meeting on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia. The introductory remarks advocated coordination of international efforts and stabilization of Somalia as key to effectively combating piracy. Meeting participants agreed that international and regional organizations had a role in finding solutions to piracy, but success depended on increased coordination that minimized duplication of effort. The safety of fishing vessels in the affected areas depended on the willingness of the military in the region to share information with the vessels, but the presenters argued against arming crews as an effective means to address piracy. The meeting acknowledged the efforts of various organizations in combatting piracy, but singled out Japan, the United States, and the European Commission for their financial support to regional capacity development. The delegates offered suggestions of additional ways that the military could counter pirates, such as interdicting the supply of weapons to pirates. The ROKG concluded the meeting by releasing the Seoul Statement on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia. End summary.

-----  
Introduction  
-----

¶2. The introductory remarks reiterated two main themes: international coordination and regional stabilization were necessary to address piracy in the Horn of Africa. Shin Kak-soo, Vice Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, proposed the 4-C's approach to combat piracy off the coast of Somalia: namely collaboration, comprehensiveness, coherent coordination, and concrete actions. Yasutoshi Nishimura, Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan, explained Japan's active participation in the counter-piracy efforts, and called for a multi-faceted approach based on a mid- to long-term perspective, including information sharing mechanisms between the private sector and governments, maritime enforcement capacity building, regional cooperation, and stabilization in Somalia. The Permanent Secretary in the Office of the Vice-President and Ministry of Home Affairs of the Republic of Kenya, Ludeki Chweya, said that international cooperation was indispensable in combating piracy and the long-term solution to the problem was to establish a functioning government in Somalia. Delivering a message from the Secretary General of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), Mr. Koji Sekimizu, Director of the IMO Maritime Safety Division, said that the long-term solution to the problem of piracy in the Gulf of Aden should be found in the region itself, involving the fortification of coast guards, the enforcement of legal capabilities, the establishment of adequate training, timely intelligence gathering and information sharing, and cooperation and sustainable capacity building in the region.

---

## Role of International and Regional Organizations in the Repression of Piracy

---

¶3. The meeting participants agreed that the short term solution to piracy was the investigation, prosecution, and punishment of suspected pirates, while establishing political stability and the rule of law in Somalia were the long term solutions. Within this context, international and regional organizations should increase their cooperation and coordination with each other, thereby avoiding duplication of efforts and enhancing effectiveness. The Information Sharing Center of the Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia (ReCAAP) was singled out as an example of the information sharing between authorities and industries that represented one of the best practices for developing cooperation in the area off the coast of Somalia. Participants then discussed possible ways to increase their participation in anti-piracy mechanisms, such as the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia (CGPCS) and the International Trust Fund.

---

## Response of the Industry and Best Management Practices

---

¶4. Some meeting participants expressed concern that the threat to fishing ships was increasing, and in this regard, took note of the fact that the IMO developed additional guidance to assist fishing vessels, which would complement the best management practices. The guidance now needed wider distribution among the shipping and fishing industries. The

Yemeni delegation said that there needed to be greater information sharing (including information technology) between fishing boats and military forces operating in the region. Shipping representatives noted that some companies had taken preventive measures with success, and that these actions would complement government counter-piracy efforts off the coast of Somalia. However, whenever someone raised the subject of arming crews, the consensus from the presenters was against the necessity and effectiveness of arming crews.

¶5. The delegates agreed that the Best Management Practices, which were transmitted to the Contact Group and subsequently adopted by the Maritime Safety Committee of the IMO on 27 May to 5 June 2009, contributed substantially to reducing the threat of piracy.

---

## Regional Capacity Building

---

¶6. The delegates commended both the CGPCS' prioritization of regional capability development and the CGPCS Working Group 1 in coordination with regional countries and international organizations. Furthermore, numerous participants also welcomed the activity being taken by the IMO, UNPOS, UNODC, Interpol, the European Commission, and individual countries, specifically singling out the willingness of Japan, the United States and the European Commission for making significant financial contributions to regional capability development.

---

## Recent Developments in Military Operations

---

¶7. The participants discussed the recent developments and experiences in military operations, including those of the Combined Maritime Forces, EU, and NATO, after which they proposed additional ways the international community could maximize the effectiveness of these operations, such as the interdiction of the supply of arms to pirates, the development of cooperative law enforcement mechanisms, military training where appropriate, and coordinated

cooperation on convoy escorting.

-----  
Conclusion  
-----

¶8. Lee Joon-gyu, Ambassador for International Counter-Terrorism Cooperation of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade of the Republic of Korea, said that piracy was a multi-dimensional issue that demanded a comprehensive response from a diversity of stakeholders, and in this regard, underlined the importance of the aforementioned 4-C's approach. Seif Ali Iddi, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation of the United Republic of Tanzania, asked all stakeholders to provide all forms of assistance to enhance anti-piracy capacity, such as training, technical and financial assistance. Koji Sekimizu, Director of the Maritime Security Division of IMO, acknowledged the progress made at the Seoul High-Level Meeting by dealing with important issues such as capacity building and the need for more coordinated military operations.

-----  
Seoul Statement on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia  
-----

¶9. On June 10, the ROKG released a &Seoul Statement on Piracy Off the Coast of Somalia<sup>8</sup> that &encouraged ( further action to bring more stability in Somalia and ( recognized the importance of assisting capacity building efforts for Somalia and its neighboring countries. In this context, Governments, international/regional organizations, and other stakeholders should be encouraged to contribute to the creation of the International Trust Fund to combat piracy to be established following the decision taken by the Contact Group.<sup>8</sup>

-----  
Meeting Participants  
-----

¶10. The following countries sent representatives: Australia, Chile (observer), China, Denmark, Djibouti, Egypt, Eritrea, France, Germany, Greece, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Netherlands, Norway, Oman, Philippines, Republic of Korea, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Seychelles, Singapore, Somalia, Spain, Sweden, Tanzania, Turkey, United Kingdom, United States, and Yemen.

¶11. The following intergovernmental organizations sent representatives: Combined Maritime Forces, European Commission (EC), European Union Naval Forces (EUNAVFOR), International Maritime Organization (IMO), International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab States, North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), and United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS).

¶12. The following non-governmental organizations sent representatives: BIMCO, International Association of Independent Tanker Owners (INTERTANKO), International Chamber of Shipping (ICS), International Maritime Bureau (IMB), Oil Companies International Marine Forum (OCIMF), and International Group of P I Clubs (IGP I).  
STANTON